

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

September 30, 2006

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of July 1 through September 30, 2006.

Introduction

The activities for this reporting period include outreach activities conducted and materials developed by the Office of Public Education and Interpretation (OPEI), and completion of the Howard University History Department Record Group processing as part of the Archives Project. A brief list of meetings, conference calls, educational services provided by OPEI, and events held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

Activities of the Reporting Period

Education/Outreach (OPEI)

OPEI staff maintained ongoing services for tour and outreach requests and walk-in visitors at 290 Broadway. H.E. Dr. João de Miranda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Republic of Angola paid an official visit to the African Burial Ground on September 21 and presented a design for a plaque that the country will contribute to the African Burial Ground National Monument.

The annual commemoration of those reinterred in 2003 at the African Burial Ground memorial site was held on Friday, September 29. The day began with the third annual Ring Shout event for schoolchildren. More than 2,900 students from 49 schools in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens participated in the march tracing the perimeter of the entire Burial Ground accompanied by African and African-American drummers and dancers from the group Something Positive. An Open House hosted by OPEI followed, beginning with a concert by singer/guitarist Guy Davis at the Cosmogram in the lobby of 290 Broadway. The afternoon and evening of interactive activities and presentations included a digital presentation by MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts) of the late Tom Feelings' artwork for his book *The Middle Passage*; a walking tour led by Dr. Lorenzo Pace to Foley Square to view his sculpture *Triumph of the Human Spirit*; a slide presentation by Imam Dr. Muhammad Hatim; a documentary screening of *South Africa: Journeys of the Freedom Songs*; and Open Mic Poetry. The day closed with a jazz concert featuring The Bill Saxton Quartet with tap dancer Omar Edwards in the lobby of 290 Broadway. Plans were made for a film forum in October to complete the commemorative activities.

A summer edition of the newsletter *African Burial Ground News* was produced and circulated nationally. Features included an article on the three African-American National Monuments - the Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver and African Burial Ground sites - managed by the National Park Service; coverage of the African Burial Ground quilt made and contributed by 4th grade students from PS 295 in Brooklyn; and special pieces on migration by Sylviane Diouf and the history of Broadway and other Manhattan Island sites ca.1658.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Planned Visitor Center (NPS)

For the architectural component of the AFBG Interpretive Center, the team completed the pre-design phase of the work and conducted a value analysis review of the proposed alternatives. The outcome of the value analysis provided direction for the development of the schematic design phase of the project. The configuration of the exhibit area within the Interpretive Center was established. There were several problems identified concerning the existing site that required solutions to accessibility issues, security and visitor access. The draft schematic design phase of the project was submitted for an internal quality assurance review September 29, 2006.

Amaze Design, Inc. developed the Schematic Design for the interpretive center exhibits, with three distinct alternatives. These were presented to the public in three open houses on September 22-23, 2006. A value analysis was conducted on the three alternatives for exhibits, and the third alternative with modifications was chosen. Almost 350 interviews for front-end evaluation were conducted at nine sites in New York City. The first draft script for the 15-minute interpretive film was submitted.

Exterior Memorial (GSA)

The trenching for the underground plumbing work has been completed during this period in the Libation Court area. The contractor installed the plumbing pipes scheduled for the drainage of the storm water as well as the groundwater.

The contractor also completed the installation of the formwork, wire mesh and re-bars at the Libation Court and the Chamber's footings. The underground electrical conduits were installed. The first concrete was poured on September 25, 2006.

Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)

Howard University, working with Howard University Press and Statistical Research, Inc (SRI), a firm specializing in the publication of archaeological reports, were contracted to complete the editing of the three technical volumes (Archaeology, History and Skeletal Biology), to prepare and print a report integrating all three volumes, and to prepare and print a general audience report.

The team held an initial meeting, regarding the tasks and schedule to complete all of the components, in July. It is anticipated the edited technical volumes will be ready in June 2007, the integrated report will be completed September 2007 and the general audience report will be completed December 2007. The team anticipates having biweekly conference calls to review project progress.

In August and September, the team prepared the initial layout of the History volume and a list of questions and potential edits/changes and provided both to the original authors for review. The team also prepared a preliminary draft outline for the integrated report.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Archives Project (Corps)

The processing of the Howard University History Department Record Group is 100 % complete, with all paper and photographic records repackaged, labeled, and cataloged. The processing continues on the Customs House Archaeology Record Group photograph collection. The team is coordinating trips to retrieve project documents from John Milner and Associates offices in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Alexandria, Virginia as well as Central Connecticut State University.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Appendix A

Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team

July 1 to September 30, 2006

July 18 Project initiation meeting, Howard University/HU Press, SRI, Corps

August 30 HU/SRI/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation

September 6, 20 and 27 HU/Corps Conference Call regarding Report Preparation

Office of Public Education and Interpretation Activities

July 2006

Date	Institution/Organization	Visitors/ Attendees	Service	OPEI Walk-In's	Comments	TTL # Served
July 3				1		1
July 5				10		10
July 6				11		11
July 7				14		14
July 10				15		15
July 11	Sachem North High School	16	Film/Site Tour	10	H.S. Teachers	26
July 12	Carey Gardens Com Ctr	38	Film/Site Tour	10		48
July 13	Mind Builders Creative Arts Center	20	Film/Site Tour	16		36
July 14	Dept of Ed Summer Institute	25	Film/Site Tour	18	Public School Teachers	43
July 17			Film/Site Tour	58		
July 18	St. Aloysius Educational Clinic	40	Film/Site Tour	65		105
July 19	City Lights Youth Theatre	20	Film/Site Tour	24		44
July 20	St. Aloysius Educational Clinic	30	Film/Site Tour	10		40.
July 21			Film/Site Tour	10		10
July 24	LaGuardia Community College	20	Film/Site Tour	28		48
July 25	Black Veterans for Social Justice	15	Film/Site Tour	6		21
July 26	Excelsior Elementary School	45	Film/Site Tour	6		51
July 27	Alianza's Polo Grounds Camp	45	Film/Site Tour	20		65
July 28			Film/Site Tour	10		10
July 31	South African Govt Officials (Jitu Weusi)	42	Film/Site Tour	10		87

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

	Sunrise Cultural Center	35	Film/Site Tour			
TOTALS						685

During the month of July we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following countries, states and cities: Jamaica, South Africa, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, and Chicago

August 2006

Date	Institution/Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	OPEI Walk-In's	Comments	TTL # Served
Aug 1	St. Aloysius Educ Clinic	36	Film/Site Tour	13		49
Aug 3	Sports, Arts&School Foundation	34	Film/Site Tour	55		89
Aug 4	United Families	5	Film/Site Tour	26		31
Aug 7	Mosaic Beacon School Sports, Arts&School Foundation	40 25	Film/Site Tour Film/Site Tour	15		80
Aug 8	NYC Housing Authority	45	Film/Site Tour	12		57
Aug 9	Mosaic Beacon School	40	Film/Site Tour	10		50
Aug 10				11		19
Aug 11	NYC Housing Authority- Ocean Hill	24	Film/Site Tour	21		45
Aug 14	PAL-Beacon@218	30	Film/Site Tour	4		34
Aug 15	Citizens Advice Bureau Glenwood Comm Houses	30 32	Film/Site Tour	10		72
Aug 16			Film/Site Tour	20		20
Aug 17	Alianza Dominican Inc	58	Film/Site Tour	33		91
Aug 18			Film/Site Tour	17		17
Aug 21			Film/Site Tour	20		20
Aug 22	Umoja Center PAL - Wynncenter	15 35	Film/Site Tour Film/Site Tour	46		96
Aug 23	Blacks on Government-DC Chapter	8	Film/Site Tour	16		24
Aug 24			Film/Site Tour	65		65
Aug 25			Film/Site Tour	15		15
Aug 28	School of Arts & Architecture	2	Film/Site Tour	10		12
Aug 29				10		10
Aug 30				21		21
Aug 31				6		6
TOTAL						938

During the month of August we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following countries, states and cities: Nigeria, Senegal, Canada, Detroit, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

September 2006

Date	Institution/Organization	#Visitors/ Attendees	Service	OPEI Walk-In's	Comments	TTL # Served
Sep 1				10		10
Sep 5				10		10
Sep 6				8		8
Sep 7				14		14
Sep 8				11		11
Sep 11				8		8
Sep 12				11		11
Sep 13	New York Historical Society	35	Film/Site Tour	8	Docents	68
	Metropolitan NY Recreation&Parks	25	Film./Off Site			
Sep 14	Hofstra University	12	Film./Site Tour	11		22
Sep 15				3		3
Sep 18	Columbia University	15	Film/Site Tour	10	Graduate Students	25
Sep 19				11		11
Sep 20				13		13
Sep 21	Baruch College	90	Site Tours 10-4pm	30	Students come	145
	Gov't Officials and Representatives from Angola	25	Site Tour/Lunch		Throughout day	
Sep 22				10		10
Sep 23	Christopher Moore Walking Tour Lower Manhattan			32		32
Sep 25	Guides Assn of NY	40	Film/Off Site	12		52
Sep 26	Eastern Middle School	50	Film/Site Tour	9		59
Sep 27	Eastern Middle School	48	Film/Site Tour	12		60
Sep 28				15		
Sep 29	Ancestral Heritage Celebration			3,600	Various events All day	3,600

TOTALS

4,172

During the month of September we received/served visitors in the OPEI office from the following cities, states, and countries: Boston, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, Germany, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal.